

First Lady Teresa Little's Remarks Idaho Women 100 Kick-Off Event

March 28, 2019

Thank you for being here this afternoon.

When Jan Gallimore mentioned this to me, I realized it hits home with me in a way beyond my personal power and responsibility in the voting booth.

In 1895 the Third Session of our Idaho State Legislature met in Boise on January 7. The entire Legislature was made up of 54 members. Legislative sessions were biennial at that time.

On January 21 of that year the resolution to permit the electors of the State to vote on a women's suffrage amendment to the Constitution at the next general election passed. The general election would be November 3, 1896. On that November date Idaho would become the fourth State in the Union to grant women the right to vote.

This is a photo of the 1895 Legislature. It hangs in the Senate caucus room here in our Capitol building.

Who were these men? I am curious about them and would like to know their stories. Could finding out more about them be a good Idaho Women 100 project?

I do know a bit about one of them. Number 43 in the photo is my Great Grandfather, Daniel Gamble.

Daniel was born between 1854-1857. He was 15 when he emigrated to the U.S. from County Donegal, Ireland. He worked 2 years in Philadelphia at Harrison Chemical works before moving to the San Francisco area to attend school at Laurel Hall under the direction of his brother, John, who was a professor there. In 1878 he entered the San Francisco Theological Seminary graduating on April 29, 1880. He was licensed and began his Presbyterian ministry in Moscow. From Moscow he went to Victoria, BC for several years before Goldendale, WA. He left the ministry in 1889 and returned with his family to Moscow to farm the land they owned there.

On November 6, 1894, Daniel Gamble was elected Representative for Latah County to the State Legislature. Daniel received 1,325 votes.

Importantly, who was the woman of influence in Daniel's life?

Born in Victoria, B.C. in 1865, Isabella Smith was in the graduating class of Angela College, a Church of England girls' school when the new minister in town, Daniel Gamble, was asked to give a speech at graduation and hand out prizes. Isabella was receiving a prize for her ability in math. After graduation she taught math at Angela College until she and Gamble married.

My Grandmother, Lola Clyde, was born in 1900. She was Isabella's daughter and a well-known local historian in Moscow. In the 1970s she recorded quite a few oral histories.

When she speaks of her mother Lola says that Isabella, being born in Canada, didn't celebrate much on the Fourth of July or Thanksgiving. Isabella didn't make it to town often; however, she never missed going to vote or to see Santa Claus and bring something home for their 7 children. My grandmother said that Isabella thought it was the salvation of the country when women could vote and help make the decisions.

Isabella's influence was certainly part of the reason Daniel Gamble voted "aye" in January 1895 on Senate Joint Resolution No.2 to submit to the electors of the State of Idaho, for their rejection or approval, an amendment to section 2, article 6 of the Constitution of the State of Idaho, relating to suffrage and elections.

Just this past Monday, March 25, 2019, I had the Today Show on. An 11-year-old girl from Washington, D.C., Alice Tapper, was telling the story of how her book, Raise Your Hand, came to be published.

As a 10-year-old Alice had noticed that boys in class raise their hands frequently and girls are very shy about doing so. She took this to her girl scout troop to talk over. That discussion resulted in a new girl scout patch, "raise your hand" being created which led to a New York Times editorial on October 31, 2017. Following the editorial Alice received a letter from Oprah with a gift of \$25,000 for the Girl Scouts. She, then, did a segment on the Ellen show where Ellen gifted \$25,001 to the Girl Scouts. The proceeds from her children's book, Raise Your Hand, just out Tuesday, March 26, 2019, will also go to the Girl Scouts.

Alice's message that girls should have confidence, step up and become leaders by raising their hands is having a huge impact on girls young...and older than young.

Interestingly, Alice's parents chose to name their daughter, Alice Paul Tapper, after Alice Paul an early and very vocal leader of the women's suffrage movement.